

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 701 without my signature.

This bill allows for various methods for the doubling of the compensation paid to city council members. One of these methods is the simple passage of an ordinance by the very council members who will receive the higher compensation. Our city councils are one of our society's most direct links between citizens and their government. Therefore, the citizens must be given the opportunity to decide through a vote of the people whether their city council members should be compensated at a higher rate. Under this bill, the compensation can be increased one-hundred percent without such a vote. Current law already provides reasonable flexibility for cities to increase the compensation if its citizens see fit.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger